Surplus land of Railways near Sankrail in Howrah

2594. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to utilize surplus railway lands for mobilizing additional financial resources;

(b) if so, whether Government has surplus land near Sankrail in Howrah;

(c) if so, the details thereof and since when it has remained idle;

(d) the details of original price paid as compensation to owners;

(e) whether Government will consider reverting back this land to State Government for setting up industries;

(f) if so, the future plans thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) whether the land may be reverted back to original former owners or to their descendents; if so, the plans thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (g) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Duranto Trains

2595. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Duranto non-stop express trains have started from Delhi to Sealdah and Chennai;

(b) if so, the other Duranto non-stop express trains which are going to be commissioned;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Hyderabad Duranto non-stop express train was to start from October, 2009; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not commissioning the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Duronto Express trains, as announced in Railway Budget 2009-10, will be introduced in the financial year.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Relief to passengers of local trains in Mumbai

†2596. SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE-PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the steps which are being taken by Government to give relief to passengers in local trains in Mumbai;

(b) whether Government proposes to constitute any committee consisting of Members of Parliament which would consider to provide better facilities to the passengers in local trains; and

(c) if so, by when; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) To give relief to the passengers in local trains in Mumbai area, Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) services have been increased by 18.43% in Central Railway and 20.15% in Western Railway since 2004 onwards. Besides state-of-the-art Electric Multiple Unit (EMUs) with 3 phase (IGBT) Insulated Gate Bipolar Transistor propulsion system and air suspension arrangement are being introduced in Mumbai area with following additional features for providing better facilities to the passengers.

i) Forced air ventilation system.

ii) GPS based Passenger information system.

iii) Aesthetically designed quality passengers seats.

iv) Higher acceleration and deceleration.

v) Improved lift of windows with fixed Poly Carbonate Louver with tinted glass.

vi) Soothing interior and exterior colour schemes.

vii) Better illumination.

viii) Regenerative braking.- resulting in reduced noise level & energy saving.

ix) Running of ladies only EMU trains to specified timings.

x) Augmentation by extra coaches in existing services.

xi) Running additional local trains.

(b) and (c) At present there is no such proposal.

Silchar-Lumding broad gauge expansion project

2597. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Silchar-Lumding broad gauge expansion project;

(b) the price escalation due to delays; and

(c) by when the project would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) On Lumding-Silchar-Jiribam, Badarpur-Kumarghat gauge conversion project, earthwork, major and